

U.S. AFFIRMS REPORT OF ISRAELI BREACHES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16 (Reuters)—The State Department confirmed today that Israel had been conducting reconnaissance flights over the Suez Canal area beyond the limits agreed upon in the Middle Eastern cease-fire and standstill agreement.

Commenting on an article in The New York Times today that said the United States had evidence that Israel had been violating the terms of the cease-fire in the air and on the ground, Robert J. McCloskey, the State Department spokesman, said:

"I can only say there have been overflights from the Israeli side which by their nature depart from the terms of the standstill cease-fire."

The United States has supported Israeli reports that the Egyptians have violated the agreement by installing new missiles on the west bank of the canal. Mr. McCloskey indicated that the United States was treating the apparent breach by Israel in a low key, as a reaction to the Egyptian build-up.

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16 (Reuters)—An Israeli Army spokesman denied today that Israel had violated the cease-fire.

"All operations of the Israel defense forces 'are within the limits of the cease-fire terms,' the spokesman said, 'and our planes fly on our side of the waterway, 10 kilometers [six miles] from the cease-fire line.'"

U.S. HUNTING WAYS TO SALVAGE TRUCE ALONG SUEZ CANAL

Evidence Shows Egyptian
Missile Sites Have Almost
Tripled Since Aug. 7

PLEA TO ALL IS WEIGHED

Western White House Says
Diplomatic Contacts Go
On in 'a Delicate Time'

By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—

The United States Government urgently searched today for ways to preserve the tenuous cease-fire in the Middle East and to bring about resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. It acted as new American evidence showed that the number of Egyptian missile positions in the truce zone had nearly tripled in the last month.

Among steps under consideration was a public appeal by Secretary of State William P. Rogers, or possibly President Nixon, to all the governments involved for a "meaningful" observance of the truce.

Such an appeal, coming as the high point of intense diplomatic activity by the United States, may be issued before the end of this week, according to officials here.

It would be addressed to the Soviet Union as well as the United Arab Republic, Jordan and Israel.

'A Delicate Time'

At the Western White House in San Clemente, Calif., where Mr. Nixon met yesterday with his top advisers to examine the situation, the press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said today, "This is a delicate time."

"Our objective, to repeat again," he said, "is to proceed with the establishment of a long-term solution of this problem in the Middle East."

Mr. Ziegler said the United States was "watching the situation very carefully" and that "there are very full discussions."

Refusing to discuss reports from high sources in the Administration that the United States had "conclusive" evidence of a continuing forward movement of Soviet-made anti-aircraft missiles in the Egyptian cease-fire zone, Mr. Ziegler said:

"We are in touch with all the parties through diplomatic channels and those are the channels through which we intend to convey our thinking for the time being."

200 Launchers Found

Data made available here by authoritative sources indicated that since the cease-fire began on Aug. 7, nearly 200 additional missile-launchers had been discovered in the Egyptian standstill zone. This zone, under the United States-sponsored cease-fire, is an area 32 miles wide running the length of the western bank of the Suez Canal, which is 100 miles long. The Israeli zone is on the opposite bank.

According to the United States evidence, gathered by satellites and U-2 aircraft, approximately 15 missile batteries were deployed in the Egyptian zone one or two nights after the start of the cease-fire. Each battery consists of six launchers although in some instances there may be fewer.

Another group, believed also to be on the "order of magnitude" of 15 batteries, was added between Aug. 15 and Aug. 27, roughly, according to these sources.

Before the cease-fire, 10 to 16 batteries were believed to have been placed in the what became the standstill zone, but this figure is not precise because United States surveillance operations began after Aug. 8.

The authoritative sources said that American surveillance had definitely established the presence of the zone 3 batteries the most ad-

vanced in the Soviet arsenal and chiefly designed for use against low-flying aircraft.

They also said that there was evidence, although they would not elaborate, that Soviet advisers were attached to the missile batteries in the truce zone. Soviet advisers are assigned to Egyptian armed forces down to the battalion level and in the Egyptian table of organization, a missile battery is considered a battalion.

The disposition of the new missile sites has been determined by United States surveillance; Mr. Ziegler said in San Clemente that "our surveillance is very good." The sites form a bulge covering the area directly east of Cairo that extends almost to the banks of the canal.

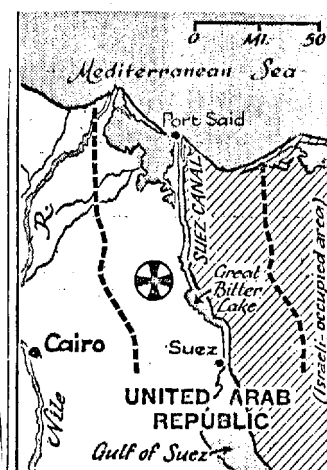
The western outlines of the bulge are east of Cairo, but the emplacements reach out into the cease-fire area. Additionally, missile sites, bunkers and empty emplacements have been spotted near the Great Bitter Lake, and south of the Mediterranean coast.

Discussions Continue

Robert J. McCloskey, the State Department spokesman, said that United States diplomats had been discussing the truce problem with Soviet and Egyptian officials.

He said that United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Jacob D. Beam, conferred with Vladimir M. Vinogradov, deputy minister of foreign affairs, "a week or 10 days ago." Other informants said that the last reported meeting in Cairo between Donald C. Bergus, the senior American diplomat there, and high Egyptian officials occurred last Thursday.

It was understood that the Soviet reaction has been to discount the charges violations.



The New York Times Sept. 3, 1970

The Egyptian reaction could not be determined here.

However, it was expected that Mr. Beam and Mr. Bergus would seek to meet again Soviet and Egyptian officials in the coming days.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, conferred today for the second time this week with Joseph J. Sisco Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. They held a telephone conversation earlier in the day. Mr. Sisco was among those attending the gathering at San Clemente.

Sources familiar with the American reconnaissance evidence cautioned that the "picture is constantly shifting" as the Egyptians redeployed missiles, built new bunkers and protective barrier. Because truce terms allow rotations of troops and equipment, some of the movements may be permissible.

These sources also said that it was difficult to establish which deployment constituted violations, because some of the batteries might have been placed in the cease-fire area before Aug. 7, undetected.

This has been one of the points of debate between American and Israeli intelligence officials.

"There are so many tracks on this desert that sometimes even photo interpreters cannot differentiate between a missile bunker and a troop shelter," one source said.

The most recent American photographic evidence was said to show that the forward missile movement continued last Thursday.

Reliable informants said that the Administration assumed that the missile movement would continue for some time.

Some United States officials asserted that the Administration had no illusions that the missiles would be pulled back as a result of the diplomatic efforts.

But they said that in an "extremely difficult situation," the United States hoped to "stabilize" the state of affairs before Israel concluded that her security required the breaking of the truce and the resumption of air attacks.

Although officials acknowledged that Israel had suffered a security setback, they said they hoped she would consider herself compensated to a degree by the American commitment to supply new supersonic Phantom jet fighter-bombers and other military equipment.

The view here is that Moscow and Cairo decided to violate the truce to place Egypt in a better negotiating position in case the peace talks ever reached an active stage.

As one official said today, "they evidently decided the risk was worthwhile and they had the confidence that the United States would restrain Israel from breaking the truce."

Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000300030004-9

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U.S. IS CONVINCED U.A.R. BROKE TRUCE

Nixon Is Shown Evidence,
Chiefly U-2 Photographs,
of Build-Up at Canal

By TAD SZULC

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 — High Administration officials said today that the United States was now "satisfied" on the basis of photographic and electronic evidence that the United Arab Republic had violated the standstill cease-fire in the Suez Canal region by moving antiaircraft missile batteries into the truce zone.

They said that this evidence, chiefly in the form of aerial photographs obtained by U-2 aircraft and satellites, was presented to President Nixon today as he met at the Western White House in San Clemente, Calif. with his top political, military and intelligence advisers for a full-scale review of the Middle East crisis.

It is on the basis of this new intelligence assessment—which constitutes a reversal of the position announced by the State Department on Aug. 19 that there was no "conclusive evidence" of the Israeli charges of the truce violations—that the Nixon Administration is expected to formulate its policies in the Middle East situation, regarded as critical here.

Meanwhile, the Senate voted overwhelmingly today to authorize the Administration to provide Israel with nearly unlimited military aid on highly favorable terms to counter "past, present or future" Soviet arms deliveries to the Arab countries.

As the Administration thus won the freedom it had urgently sought to furnish Israel with whatever military equipment that country may require, President Nixon conducted at the Western White House in San Clemente, Calif., an hour-and-40-minute review of the entire Middle East situation, which United States officials regard as critical.

Secrecy surrounded the meeting, which was attended by Vice President Agnew; Secretary of State William P. Rogers; Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Under Secretary of Defense David Packard; Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence; Henry A. Kissinger, Special Presidential Adviser on National Security Affairs and Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, refused to discuss the session except to say that the entire Middle Eastern situation had been reviewed after Mr. Agnew had reported to the group on his Asian tour.

It was assumed that the San Clemente conference had centered on the crisis arising from Israeli charges that the United Arab Republic was repeatedly violating the 90-day cease-fire at the Suez Canal by moving Soviet-made antiaircraft missile batteries into the truce zone, which extends for 32 miles on either side of the canal.

On this point, Mr. Ziegler confined himself to the remark that the United States "is assisting the surveillance area" and "remains in touch with both sides through diplomatic channels."

The expectation in Washington has been that in calling today's Middle East strategy meeting, President Nixon would seek to decide on measures that the United States might take to reduce the danger of a breakdown in the 90-day cease-fire, which began Aug. 7. The fear is that what Israel regards as truce violations by the Egyptians might push her to abandon the peace talks that opened at the United Nations last week.

Israel has publicly taken the position that the United States, as the initiator of the cease-fire and peace-talk proposals, is responsible for the restoration of the situation in the truce zone that existed before the reported violations.

Authority for the Administration to sell other military equipment, including aircraft, to Israel without restrictions was granted by the Senate in approving the \$19.2-billion Military Procurement Authorization Act. The act carries a special provision covering the financing of arms to the Israelis.

But the Senators first defeated by 87 votes to 7, an

Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, intended to eliminate from the bill the clause concerning Israel.

Mr. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, had sponsored the amendment in an effort to defeat an earlier proposal by Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, to give the Administration what amounts to a free hand in shipping aircraft and other military equipment to Israel.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird urged the Senators yesterday to defeat the Fulbright amendment so that credits for the Israeli arms could come from the big procurement package.

He also disclosed that if action on the funds to finance the weapons for Israel was delayed for two more weeks, the Administration would not be able to contribute to the maintenance of the military balance in the Middle East, a policy, he said, "to which the United States is committed."

Senator Fulbright's opposition to the earlier provision appeared to be based principally on his larger concern that the Administration was increasingly bypassing the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in granting military aid to foreign nations, working, instead, through the Armed Services Committee.

Size Not Disclosed

The Administration has not disclosed the size of the current arms deliveries to Israel nor the specific financial arrangements. But the Senate authorized it today to arm Israel "by sale, credit sale or guaranty."

The bill said that the President was authorized through these procedures to provide Israel with "such aircraft and equipment appropriate to use, maintain and protect as may be necessary to counteract any past, present or future increased military assistance" from the Soviet Union to the Arab countries.

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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Tuesday - 1 September 1970

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1. [] Met with Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant, House Appropriations Committee, whom I briefed on:

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- a. Developments in the Middle East "stand still" zone.
- b. Soviet naval flotilla headed for the Caribbean.
- c. Soviet naval activity in the eastern Mediterranean.
- d. Latest assessment of the new Soviet bomber.

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2. [] Met with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, whom I briefed on each of the above items including []

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Woodruff now estimates that the mark-up of the Agency budget by Senate Appropriations Committee may be as early as the first week in October. He expects only a modest cut.

Woodruff expects Congress to recess, or perhaps adjourn, in late October.

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3. [] Called the office of Senator Barry Goldwater for an appointment to provide him with our comments on the "Peace Through Law" committee recommendations but he was not available.

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